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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,458	04/09/2004	Lian Bao Wu	P5231	2835

7590 10/05/2004

Lian Bao Wu  
P.O. Box 63-99  
Taichung, 406  
TAIWAN

EXAMINER

CAMPBELL, THOR S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3742

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/822,458

Applicant(s)

WU, LIAN BAO

Examiner

Thor S. Campbell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prain (US 2726314).

Prain discloses a steam cleaner comprising a container 2 including a chamber 7 formed therein, a steam generator 23 received in said chamber of said container for generating steam, and a housing 22 including a space formed therein to receive a portion of said container, and including at least one spacer 8 extended into said space thereof, to engage with said container, and to form an air passage between said container and said housing, and said housing including a plurality of apertures formed therein wherein said container includes a lower casing and an upper casing disposed in said chamber of said container to receive said steam generator in said lower and said upper casings, wherein said container includes a front portion having a tube provided therein, and having an opening formed in said tube, said steam generator includes an outlet port received in said opening of said tube.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shero (US 5265318).

Shero discloses a steam cleaner comprising a container including a chamber formed therein, and including a front portion, a steam generator received in said chamber of said

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container for generating steam, and a nozzle detachably attached to said front portion of said container for outwardly supplying the steam, said container includes a tube provided in said front portion thereof, and having an opening formed in said tube, said nozzle includes a pipe extended rearwardly therefrom and selectively engageable into said opening of said tube of said container, wherein said tube of said container includes a lock notch formed therein, said pipe of said nozzle includes a quick connect, including a spring blade having a catch extended therefrom and engageable into said lock notch of said tube, and to detachably lock said pipe of said nozzle to said tube of said container.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liu (US 6536379).

Liu discloses a steam cleaner comprising a container including a chamber formed therein, and including a rear portion, a steam generator received in said chamber of said container for generating steam, and an extension shank detachably attached to said rear portion of said container, wherein said container includes a handle provided in said rear portion thereof, said extension shank is selectively engageable into said handle of said container, wherein said handle of said container includes a hole formed therein, said extension shank includes a spring biased latch engageable into said hole of said handle, and to detachably lock said extension shank to said handle of said container.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thor S. Campbell whose telephone number is 703-306-9042. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri 5:30AM-4:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 703-305-5766. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TSC



**THOR CAMPBELL**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**